

REMARK

The undersigned appreciates the Examiner's kind response to a request for one of the cited non-patent literature on January 4, 2005. In the Office Action dated October 5, 2004, the Examiner has objected to claim 9. The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1 through 20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Lastly, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103. In view of the above amendments and the below remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the pending objection and rejections.

The Objection

In the Office Action, the Examiner has noted that the preliminary amended of December 12, 2001 has been entered. However, the Examiner has objected to claim 9 allegedly due to missing the dependency. Since the above preliminary amendment corrected the informality, Applicants treat the objection to claim 9 as moot and list the claim as "previously presented" in the above claim listing. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that the claim objection should be withdrawn.

The Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1 through 20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 32 of copending Application No. 09/994,956. Since the copending application has not been examined, the provisional double patenting rejection will be addressed by Applicants in view of the Examiner's final determination on the allowed claims.

The Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being allegedly obvious over the Sullo reference in view of the Tamaki et al. reference. The Examiner has conceded that the Sull reference is a “text book” that “teaches the underlying theory of Information Engineering” and lacks disclosures on “an implementation.” The Sullo reference discloses general concepts on “Designing Object Attributes” and teaches how to develop data requirements for the object-base databases in Chapter 16. On the other hand, the Examiner has alleged that the Tamaki et al. reference teaches, discloses or suggests every element of the claimed invention.

Newly amended independent claim 1 now explicitly recites “said input/output unit receives the user data for further determining associated detailed activities of a selected one of the activity names, said processing unit updating the predetermined DFD matrix format based upon the associated detailed activities for displaying the activity names, said processing unit storing the activity names with the associated detailed activities in the ER source information file.” On other hand, independent claim 20 explicitly recites “wherein said input/output unit receives additional user input data for selecting sequential pairs of the activity names and the information names from the DFD matrix, said processing unit storing the sequential pairs of the activity names and the information names into an event trace table, said processing unit reading one of the activity names from the event trace table, said processing unit causing the input/output unit to display the one of the activity names in an event record column in an event trace diagram, said processing unit reading a corresponding one of the information names from the event trace, said processing unit causing the input/output unit to display the corresponding one of the information names in a row that corresponds to the one of the activity names in the event record column.”

In other words, newly amended independent claim 1 explicitly recites “said input/output unit ...determining associated detailed activities of a selected one of the activity

names” while independent claim 20 explicitly recites “said processing unit causing the input/output unit to display the one of the activity names in an event record column in an event trace diagram.” In contrast to the above features of the current invention, the Tamaki et al. reference appears to lack relevant disclosures.

The Tamaki et al. reference generally discloses a method and an apparatus for defining enterprise information flows. To define the information flows, line activities represents line application activities which are a series of application activities for manufacturing products and/or services in the enterprise, and staff activity represents staff application activities which are a series of application activities for maintaining and controlling the manufacture of the products/ or services in the enterprise as illustrated in FIGURE 3 and described at lines 29 through 41 in column 4. Furthermore, The Tamaki et al. reference discloses application activities and external organizations as information sources and information users [consumers] as well as the names of the associated information to be transferred from the information sources to the information users as illustrated in FIGURE 4 and described at lines 43 through 58 in column 4. Based upon the data tables as illustrated in FIGURES 2, 3 and 4, the matrix generator 6 generates the information flow definition/analysis matrix as illustrated in FIGURES 5A through 5P as well as the functional information relational diagram as illustrated in FIGURES 6A and 6B. As described with respect to the flow charts in FIGURES 1A through 1C, the “user enters a name of information having the users including the external organization, the line application activity and the staff application activity arranged on the vertical axis, with the source including the external organization, the line application activity and the staff application activity arranged on the horizontal axis in the information flow definition/analysis matrix (FIGS. 5A-5P) displayed on the screen, into a frame at the crosspoint of the item on the horizontal axis and an item on the vertical axis.”

The Tamaki et al. reference fails to teach, disclose and suggest the patentable features as explicitly recited in independent claims 1 and 20. As already pointed out before, newly amended independent claim 1 explicitly recites “said input/output unit ...determining associated detailed

activities of a selected one of the activity names” while independent claim 20 explicitly recites “said processing unit causing the input/output unit to display the one of the activity names in an event record column in an event trace diagram.” Although the Tamaki et al. reference discloses the user input, the user information input is limited to one level or a single layer without the “associated detailed activities.” Similarly, although the Tamaki et al. reference discloses the user output, the user information output is limited to the information flow definition/analysis matrix or the functional information relational diagram without the “event trace diagram.” Applicants respectfully submit that the Tamaki et al. reference fails to teach, disclose or suggest the “associated detailed activities” or the “event trace diagram.” For the above reasons, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the patentable features based upon the disclosures of the cited references alone or in combination.

Claims 6, 17, 18 and 19 have been cancelled. Dependent claims 2 through 5, 7 through 16 ultimately depend from patentably distinct independent claim 1 and incorporate the patentable features. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that the current rejection of claims 1 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

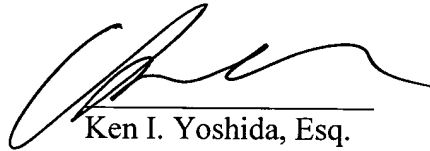
New Claims

Dependent claims 21 through 24 have been newly added to the current application. Newly added dependent claims 21 through 24 respectively correspond to the subject matter limitations of pending claims 9, 10, 12 and 13. Thus, the subject matter limitations of the newly added claims have been supported by the original disclosures of the current application. Furthermore, newly added dependent claims 21 through 24 ultimately depend from patentably distinct independent claim 20 and incorporate the patentable features as discussed with respect to the above section 103 rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that the newly added claims be also entered.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 5, 2005

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